(b) whether this problem of water shortage may turn worse during the coming summer;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps being taken by the Union Government to improve the situation of water supply thereon war footing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (d) As per the Memorandum submitted by Government of Maharashtra to the Government of India, a drought situation has been reported in various parts of Maharashtra including Wardha district of Vidarbha region. As reported by Maharashtra Government, 312 villages/wadies in Wardha district are likely to be affected during the coming summer by drinking water scarcity for which action plans for the period October, 2004 to June, 2005 has been prepared. Based on the Memorandum submitted by the Maharashtra Government, an Inter-Ministerial team has visited Maharashtra during 12-15 April, 2005 to assess the drought situation including water scarcity problems. The report of the team will be considered by the Inter-Ministerial Group and the High Level Committee for any additional central assistance.

**Report of Planning Commission on bio-fuel**

3062. SHRI RAJU PARMAR: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Ministry of Rural Development has been assigned the job to act as the nodal agency for processing the Planning Commission report on bio-fuel;

(b) whether it is also a fact that TERI, New Delhi was assigned the job of preparing a final report on the subject by January, 2005;

(c) if so, whether the report from TERI has since been received by the Government; if not, what are the reasons for the delay and by when report is likely to be received by the Government;

(d) whether Government propose to offer any incentive to the grower of bio-fuel plans (jatropha); and

(e) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA): (a) to (c) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Rural Development has been identified as the nodal ministry for processing the recommendations of the Planning Commission Report on Development of Bio-fuel. For this purpose, TERI was commissioned to prepare the Detailed Project Report (DPR), which was submitted in January, 2005.

(d) and (e) The decision on the fiscal and financial incentives will be made at the time of sanction of the scheme by the competent authority.

**Water Conservation Mission**

3063. SHRI SUDARSHAN AKARAPU: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have launched a "Peoples Water Conservation Mission";

(b) if so, the objectives of the mission; and

(c) if not, the time-frame by when the mission would be launched?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. NARENDRA ): (a) to (c) No, Sir. There is no proposal to launch a scheme in the name of "Peoples Water Conservation Mission".

**Constitution of a committee to study the problem of rural population**

†3064. SHRI PYARELAL KHANDELWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that instead of increase in the employment opportunities in rural areas there has been decrease;

(b) whether it is also a fact that a major portion of rural population is forced to migrate to big cities due to the above reason;

(c) if so, whether Government are considering to constitute a committee to study the above problems of the rural population; and

(d) if not, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI SURYAKANTA PATIL): (a) No, Sir. There is

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.